

Hanson, MA Area J  
Burrage Industrial  
Area Data Sheet

<u>MHC</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Street</u>	<u>Style/Form</u>	<u>Date</u>
166	Eastern Tinfoil Co./Litecontrol	97	Hawks Avenue	Industrial	1906+
167	A.C. Burrage Co./Litecontrol	97	Hawks Avenue	Industrial	1906+

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town **Hanson**

Place **Burrage**

Name of Area **Burrage Industrial**

Present Use **Industrial**

Construction Dates/Period  
**1906-1907/ 1951/1967**

Overall Condition **good**

Major Instructions and Alterations  
**later additions to original pair of  
buildings; monitor roofs enclosed**

Acreage **10.80 acres**

Recorded by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**

Organization **Hanson Historical  
Commission**

Date **May 1996**



Sketch Map *see continuation sheet*



## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Litecontrol Corporation at 97 Hawks Avenue is the surviving portion of a group of Burrage industrial buildings that were located along the south side of the railroad tracks. The original pair of large-scale molded cement block rectangular industrial buildings have been altered and expanded with the addition of one-story frame and metal rectangular additions in a diffuse fashion. The two buildings' original configurations and scale are still evident, however. Sited in a V configuration (see attached schematic) each one-story building has interior heavy timber-frame construction, and a monitor roof (now enclosed) running the depth of the building. The **westerly building (form no. 167)**, sited perpendicular to Hawks Avenue, has a 60' by 148' rear section and a 110' by 88' forward section. The easterly **Eastern Tinfoil Company (form no. 166)** building, sited at an angle to the street, has a 200' by 30' single pile, two-story section running the width of the facade, presumably to accommodate office space. The one-story monitor-roofed section that measures 98' by 200' extends behind the thirty foot deep two-story office spaces. A one-story frame and cement block ell measuring roughly 128' by 46' extends from the rear elevation of the monitor roof section. The facade is now faced with stucco, and the first-story windows are enclosed. The windows on all the original buildings are now enclosed. A three-story, 40' wide addition extends from the right side elevation that may date to 1967. A one-story frame narrow addition measuring roughly 20' by 85' along the northeast elevation of the westerly building dates to 1951. A number of the added buildings are pre-engineered with metal shells and steel beam roofs. A railroad side track originally ran between the two buildings, leading to the cedar swamp located south of the complex. The site also had its own power plant which is no longer extant. The well-maintained complex sits close to the end of a dead-end avenue and railroad tracks.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Burrage Area was developed in 1906-1907 by Albert C. Burrage. Before that time the area contained scattered development and was identified on historic maps as Bournetown. Much of the land was owned by Charles Bourne who grew and sold cedar used for posts, rails and shingles. Albert Burrage became wealthy by investing in copper stock, at the behest of his friend and Harvard classmate, attorney Walter Damon, who was a resident of South Hanson. Burrage acquired the property around the railroad tracks, Pleasant Street, and Reed Street to plan and develop a model town. The low-lying land on the south side of the tracks was developed with several industrial endeavors while the land on the north side was developed with worker's housing (see Area **I** ).

## REFERENCES

Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830  
Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856  
Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879  
Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903  
White, Houses of Hanson  
History of the Town of Hanson, typescript, c. 1960  
Hanson Tax Assessor Records, various

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. See NR Criteria Statement form.

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community  
HansonProperty Address  
Hawks Avenue

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

Form # 166-167

Area Burrage Industrial, J

**Historical Narrative, continued.**

The Litecontrol Corporation's original buildings were constructed in 1906 by A.C. Burrage & Company. C. Gilman Whiting, who developed the workers housing for Burrage, also built this group. In the easterly building the Eastern Tinfoil Company manufactured tin foil. The westerly building may have been used for cedar box manufacturing. Further research is necessary to clarify the original owners and uses of these buildings. By the 1930s both buildings were owned by the Wheeler Reflector Company. Litecontrol acquired the property in the early 1970s.

The first Burrage factory constructed, the Wirt Manufacturing Company, located on the corner of Hawks Avenue and Pleasant Street is no longer extant. The company manufactured all porcelain components of electrical appliances. The cement block building's layout included an office, mixing room, moulding room and firing room. The company filed for bankruptcy in 1908, resulting in the end of Burrage's dream for a model village, though the company continued to operate until after the 1930s.

Several other buildings originally were a part of the Burrage Industrial area, all no longer extant except for the post office (not surveyed because the structure is much altered), on the north side of the railroad tracks. No longer extant buildings include the railroad station, also on the north side of the tracks and the Colby Screen House, that was located between Wirt Manufacturing and the tinfoil manufacturing facility.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

Community

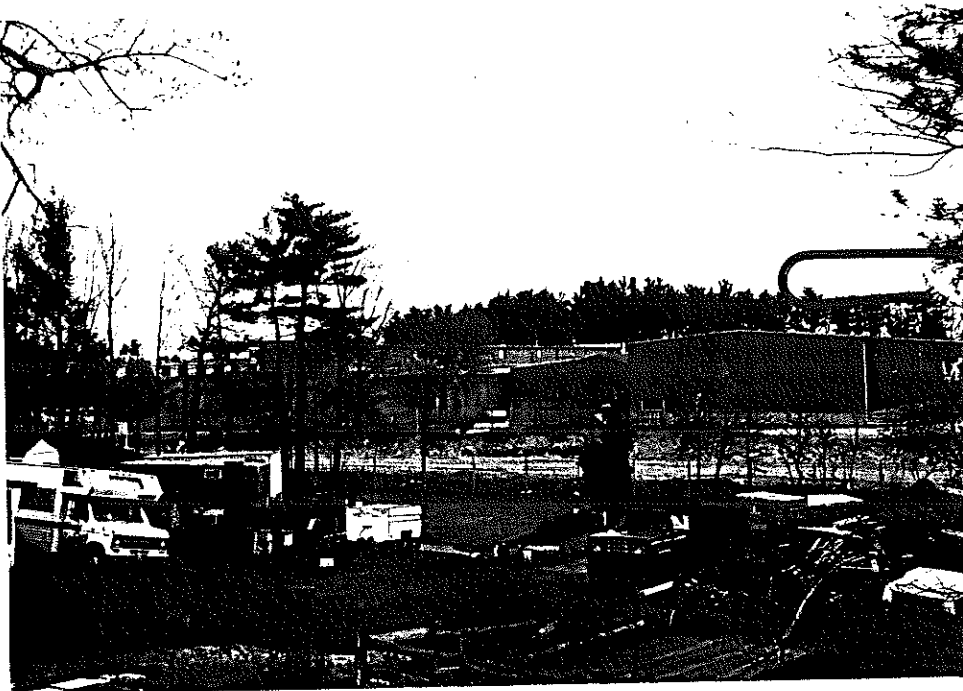
Hanson

Form # 166-167

Property Address

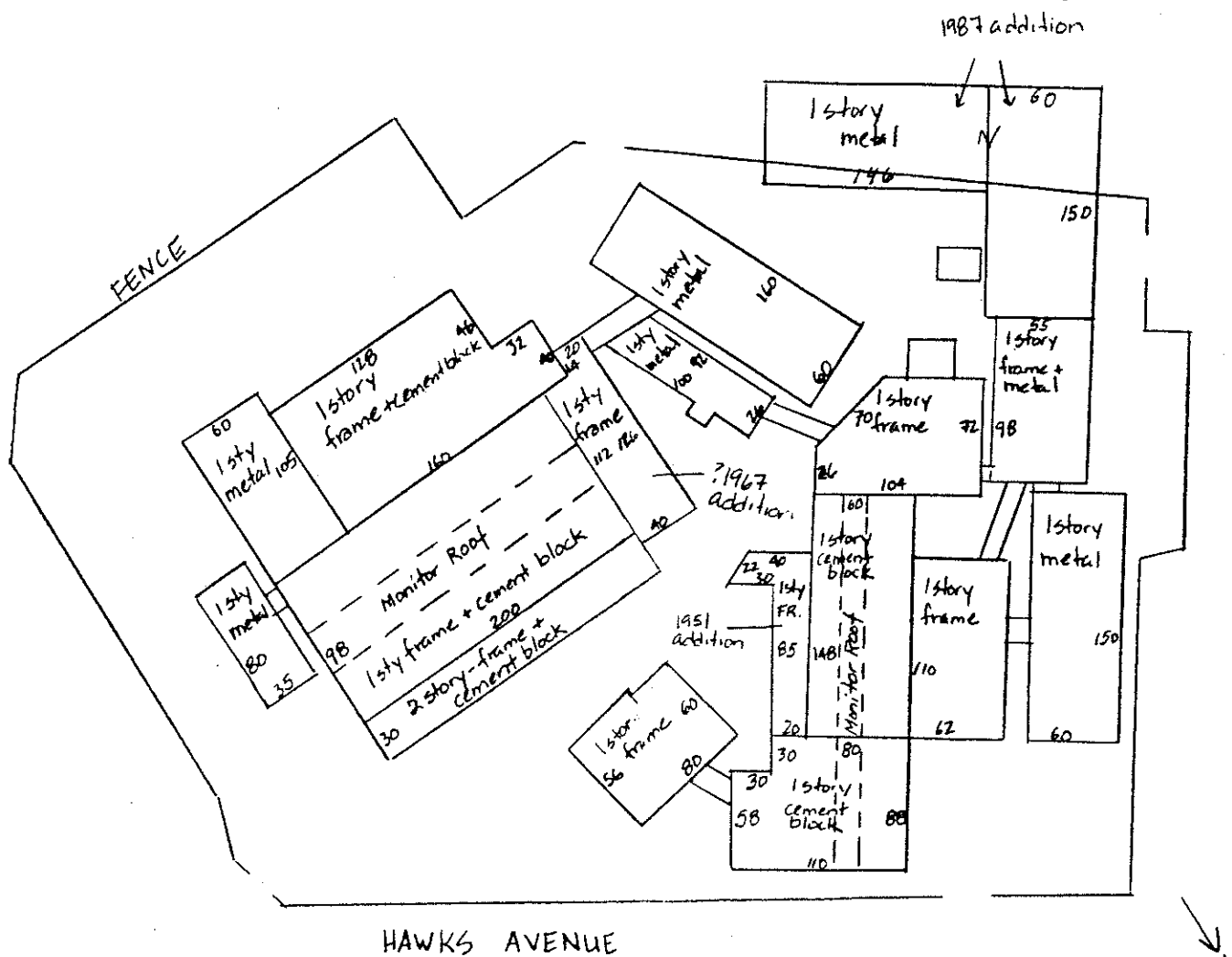
97 Hawks Avenue

Area Burrage Industrial, J



**Property Address**  
**Hawks Avenue**

**Area Burrage Industrial**



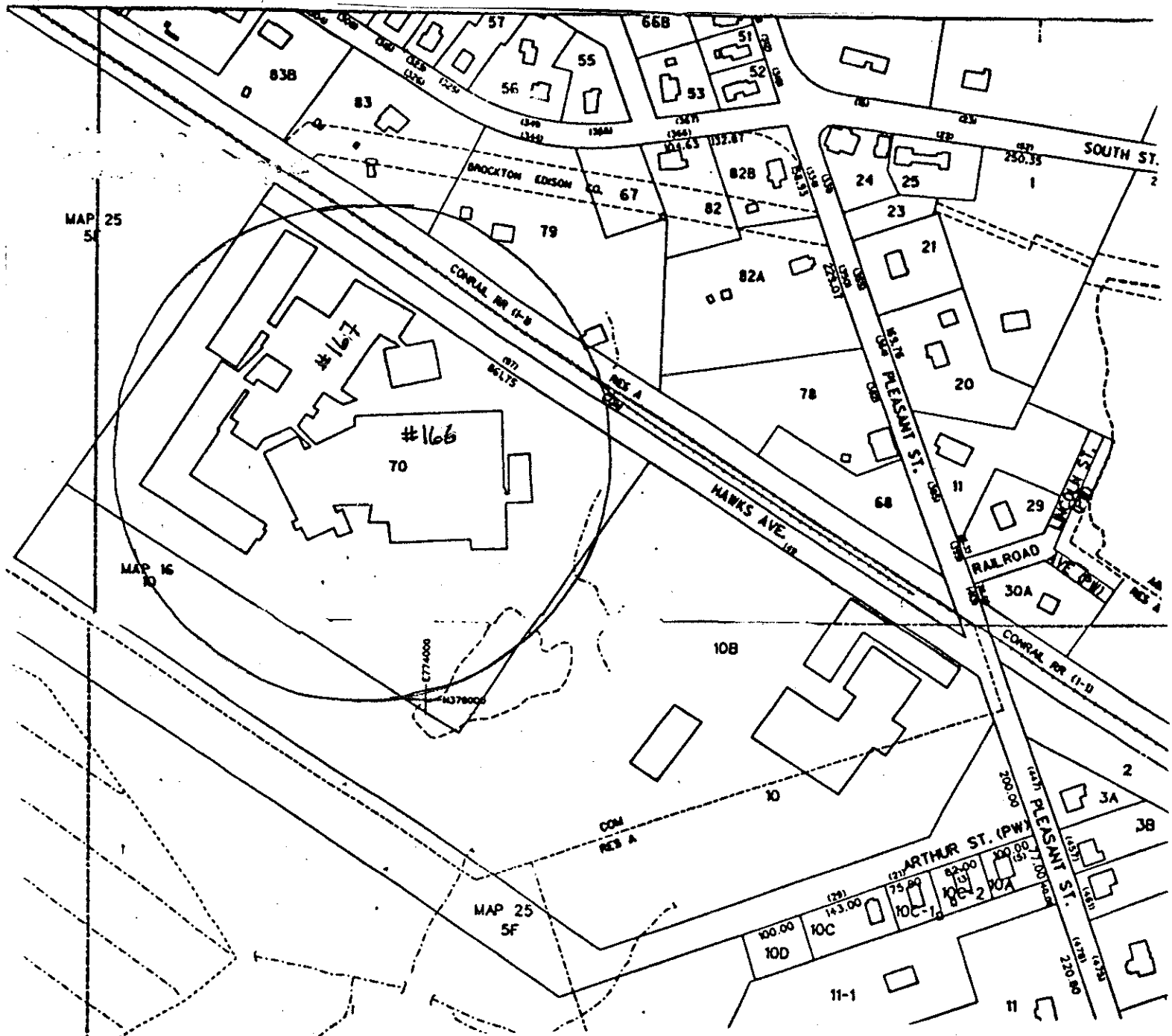
## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Area Burrage Industrial, J



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Community  
**Hanson**

Property Address  
**97 Hawks Avenue**

Area  
**J**

Form #  
**166-167**

### National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☐ Individually eligible.

☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.

☒ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**.

The Litecontrol Corporation at 97 Hawks Avenue is the surviving portion of a group of early twentieth century industrial buildings that were located along the south side of the railroad tracks in the Burrage area of Hanson. The original pair of large-scale molded cement block rectangular industrial buildings have been altered and expanded with additions in a diffuse fashion. The two buildings' original V configuration and scale are still evident. The Burrage Area was developed in 1906-1907 by A.C. Burrage to be a model village with the land on the north side of the railroad tracks developed with worker's housing. The model village ideal gained popularity in the late nineteenth century nationally and internationally. This area continues to be one of Hanson's small-scale industrial nodes. It meets criteria A and C at the local level. It retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.